

Message Text

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LIMDIS

FOR ASST SEC AF SHRONTZ FROM AMB GOULD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL

SUBJ: YF-16 STEERING COMMITTEE

1. FRANK: GENERAL STOKLA CAME IN TO SEE ME A COUPLE OF DAYS AGO TO DISCUSS HIS VIEWS ON HOW THE MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FOR THE FY-16 PROGRAM SHOULD BE STRUCTURED IN GENERAL AND TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE IN PARTICULAR. SUBSEQUENTLY, COL RIDDLE, WHO HAS JUST COMPLETED HIS ASSIGNMENT HERE AS AIR ATTACHE AND IS RETURNING TO WASHINGTON THIS DATE, WAS CALLED IN BY STOKLA AND OBTAINED FURTHER INSIGHT INTO STOKLA'S THINKING. I AM ASKING COL RIDDLE TO STOP BY YOUR OFFICE TO SEE YOU AT YOUR EARLY CONVENIENCE TO GIVE YOU THE SPECIFIC DETAILS.

2. THE THRUST OF STOKLA'S THESIS IS THAT FOR THE FY16 PROGRAM TO FUNCTION EFFECTIVELY, THE STEERING COMMITTEE SHOULD HAVE AS ITS TOP EXECUTIVE--BE IT THE CHAIRMAN OR AN EXECUTIVE-DIRECTOR-- AVAILABLE ON A FULL TIME BASIS TO SUPERVISE THE SECRETARIAT AND FOR PREPARATION OF AGENDAS TO BE PUT BEFORE THE PERIODIC MEETINGS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE. HE BELIEVES THE WORKLOAD OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL PROVE UNMANAGEABLE WITHOUT DIRECTION BY AN EXECUTIVE ABLE TO DEVOTE FULL TIME TOWARD ITS OPERATION AND DIRECTION. HE CONCLUDED BY INDICATING HIS AVAILABILITY TO FILL SUCH A ROLE.

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3. WHILE I AM NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE LATEST THINKING ON HOW THE FY-16 PROGRAM WILL BE ORGANIZED, I AM PERSUADED OF THE MERIT OF STOKLA'S ARGUMENT, NAMELY THAT THE STEERING COMMITTEE WILL REQUIRE A FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE, WHETHER THAT EXECUTIVE BE THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OR AN EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. AS TO STOKLA'S CANDIDACY FOR SUCH A ROLE, IT HAS MY HEARTIEST ENDORSEMENT BECAUSE HE HAS PROVEN TRACK RECORD AS DIRECTOR OF THE F-104 CONSORTIUM AND BECAUSE HE IS A HARD-HEADED NO-NONSENSE EXECUTIVE WHO KNOWS HIS WAY EXTRAORDINARILY WELL THROUGH THE MAZES OF THE EUROPEAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY BUREAUCRACIES. AS YOU KNOW, STOKLA IS AN ENGINEER BY PROFESSION, HAS RISEN TO THE RANK OF LIEUTENANT-GENERAL AS DIRECTOR OF MATERIEL FOR THE RNLA (A POSITION FROM WHICH HE WILL RETIRE NO LATER THAN NOV 1), AND HAS GREAT FAMILIARITY INCLUDING LANGUAGE COMPATIBILITY WITH THE KEY PLAYERS IN THE OTHER CONSORTIUM COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH HE BARGAINED LONG AND HARD AND SUCCESSFULLY FOR THE INTERESTS OF THE NETHERLANDS, HE HAS BEEN AND REMAINS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. I CAN THINK OF NO ONE WHO WOULD BE A BETTER NOR MORE USEFUL PERSON TO BRING INTO THE FY-16 PROGRAM.

4. INSOFAR AS THE STRUCTURING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE GOES, PERHAPS AN ORGANIZATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF NAMSA, THAT IS TO SAY, A BOARD OF DIRECTORS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GENERAL POLICY WITH A FULL-TIME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHARGED WITH CARRYING OUT THAT POLICY, WOULD BE A GOOD SYSTEM. STOKLA ALSO MADE THE POINT, WHICH ON ITS FACE WOULD SEEM TO HAVE MERIT HOWEVER THE STEERING COMMITTEE IS STRUCTURED, THAT THE CHAIRMANSHIP SHOULD BE A TERM OF TWO OR THREE YEARS AND THEN ROTATED AMONG THE CONSORTIUM REPRESENTATIVES. HE URGES THAT IT WOULD BE POLITIC, IF ONLY FOR OPTICAL REASONS, FOR A EUROPEAN TO BE SELECTED AS THE INITIAL STEERING COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL THE OTHER COMMITTEES IN THE OVERALL STRUCTURE WILL BE HEADED BY AMERICANS.

5. DURING AUGUST I WILL BE RETURNING FOR SUMMER LEAVE AND WILL BE AVAILBLE TO MEET WITH YOU, SHOULD YOU DESIRE, TO FILL YOU IN ON ADDITIONAL THINKING THAT MAY HAVE EVOLVED OVER HERE ON THE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE FOR THE FY-16 PROGRAM.
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WARM REGARDS.
GOULD

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